Some Brief REFLECTIONS

On the BILL *Depending in the Moſt Honourable Houſe of* LORDS, *For Reſtraining the Wearing of all* Eaſt India *and* Perſia *Wrought Silks*, &c.

I. IT is Enacted, That *Eaſt India* Wrought Silks, *&c.* ſhall not after *May* 1697, be worn in *England*; and ſo any Perſon that wears them after that time, either for Cloaths, Beds, or other Furniture for Houſes, is liable to an Indictment as well as the Rude Inſults of Informers (as the Council who have examined this Act, are of Opinion:) Therefore it is hoped Care will be taken to prevent this Inconveniency.

II. It is farther Enacted, That any Perſon Selling or Bartering any Parcel of the aforeſaid Goods, amounting to leſs than the Sum or Value of Fifty Pounds, is (without any *Proviſo*) adjudged, declared, and taken, to be a Retailer of the ſaid Commodities, and is liable to the Penalties and Forfeitures of this Act. But there are divers Parcels of the ſaid Goods ſold for Exportation (which the Bill ſeems to provide eſpecially for) ſome of which do not amount to above Twenty Shillings; very many not to above Five, Ten, Twenty, or Thirty Pounds, or thereabouts; of which many Proofs can be given upon Oath.

III. This Act (if it ſhould paſs) is to be in force about One Year hence. Then what muſt thoſe ſeveral Merchants do with their Ships now abroad, which are Freighted or Ordered to be Freighted, with many of thoſe Prohibited Commodities, ſeveral of which, perhaps will not arrive theſe Two Years or more: And what muſt the unhappy Retailers do with what ſhall be left upon their hands, many of thoſe Commodities being Vendible no where but at Home (and altogether uſeleſs and improper for Exportation) becauſe they ſerve us inſtead of other Goods imported from *Holland* and other Neighbouring Countreys?

IV. It is further Enacted, That if upon any Proſecution, any Queſtion or Doubt ſhall ariſe, Whether any of the Goods Barterr'd or Sold by Retail, were of the Manufacture of *Perſia* or the *Eaſt Indies*, the Proof ſhall lie upon ſuch Retailer, that the Goods ſo Sold or Barterr'd, were not of the Product or Manufacture of *Perſia* or the *Eaſt Indies*. Then how impoſſible will it be for the poor Retailer to avoid the Penalties of this Act, or becoming a Prey to Mercenary Informers; when out of ſpite or malice of themſelves, or by the inſtigation of others, they ſhall under pretence of the Authority of this Act, put any Retailer to the trouble of a Negative Proof, which is impoſſible to be made? And it is well known that there are ſeveral Silks made in *Holland*, which come over here, ſo exactly reſembling *Eaſt India* Silks, that if the Retailer hath any value for an Oath, it will never be in his power to make good the Proof which will lie upon him.

For the ſeveral Conſiderations aboveſaid (as well as many others which might be enumerated) it is humbly hoped that this moſt Honourable Houſe will not paſs this Act (or at leaſt, not without Amendments in every of the Particulars above ſpecified) all which is moſt humbly ſubmitted to their ſerious Conſideration.

Some Brief

REFLECTIONS

ON THE

BILL,

FOR

Restraining the Wearing

OF

EAST-INDIA

Wrought Silks, &c.

Beinecke
Library
Broadsides 4°
Byo
1695